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JAPANESE PATENT OFFICE

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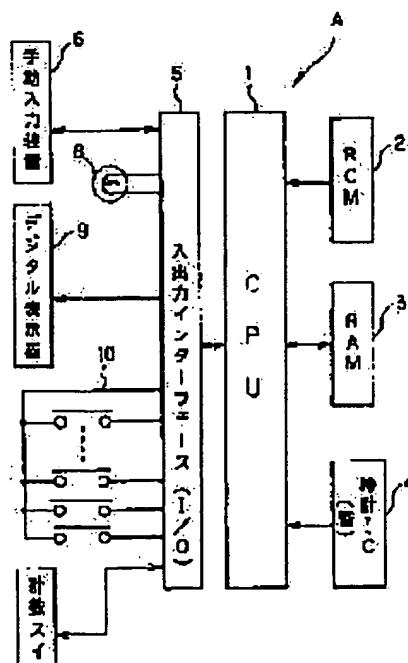
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(54) AUTOMATIC VENDING MACHINE PROVIDED WITH DISCOUNT SALES FUNCTION

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To automate a discount sales function by deciding the propriety of the discount sale according to the prescribed reference and based on a target number of commodities sold and the number of commodities sold within a period when the sold commodities are counted.

SOLUTION: When a set sold commodity number counting period is over, a CPU 1 decides to perform or not to perform the discount sale in each type of commodities according to the reference that is set by a discount sales control program and based on a target number of commodities sold and the number of commodities sold actually. For instance, the discount sales are decided when the number of commodities sold is smaller than the target number. Otherwise, the discount sale is decided when the number of commodities sold is smaller than the target



number and also the secular change of the number of commodities sold shows a convex curve. Thus, various patterns are considered for decision of execution of the discount sale. Then each type of commodities is sold at a set discount price or at a regular price based on the decision of the CPU 1. When the number of commodities is equal to the target number, the CPU 1 decides to continue the discount sales or not based on the instruction showing the priority of continuation of the discount sales.



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